

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4, 7-8, 12 and 14-22 without prejudice.

Please amend the following claims which are pending in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of cooking a pizza comprising:

placing a pizza in [[an]] a convection oven with at least the central region of the pizza resting upon a pizza supporting device having an upper supporting surface supporting between 25% to 75% of the cooking portion of the diameter of the pizza to be cooked; and

cooking the pizza, such that the said central portion of the pizza ~~is raised~~ supported above the level of the peripheral region of the pizza during cooking by ~~means of~~ the upper supporting surface.

2. (Currently amended) A device for supporting at least a portion of a pizza during cooking in [[an]] a convection oven, the device comprising:

an upper supporting surface for supporting at least a central region of a pizza such that said central region is ~~raised~~ supported above the level of the peripheral region of the pizza during cooking, said upper supporting surface being provided by a main dome-shaped portion having at least one open, central

aperture therein to permit steam and moisture to escape from the central region of the pizza, the dome-shaped portion having a first inclination; and
an outer portion having a second inclination, the outer portion having a peripheral rim wherein the first inclination is less than the second inclination.

3. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the upper supporting surface comprises a ~~substantially~~-circular raised portion, ~~the diameter of the upper supporting surface being less than the diameter of the pizza to be cooked.~~

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A ~~device~~method as claimed in claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein the diameter of the upper supporting surface is selected to be between 40% and 60% of the diameter of the pizza ~~to be~~ being cooked.

6. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the device comprises an inverted ~~dish or saucer like~~ member having a substantially said central aperture lying in a horizontal plane ~~planar upper supporting surface and an outer edge region~~ and a dome-shaped portion defining the outer region of

the aperture extending downwardly therefrom.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the device is formed from a heat resistant material ~~such as~~ selected from the group comprising card, metal, ceramic ~~[[or]]~~ and a ~~suitable~~ polymeric material.

10. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the device is formed from aluminum.

11. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least a portion of the upper supporting surface of the device is perforated to allow steam and moisture to escape from the underside of the crust in the central region of the pizza.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim ~~[[12]]~~ 2, wherein a single aperture is provided ~~in the centre of the supporting surface~~.

14-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein an outwardly and horizontally extending peripheral flange extends from the lowermost portion of the outer portion for resting on a support surface.

24. (New) A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the upper supporting surface does not include an outer, peripheral upstanding wall.